TESTIMONY OF ART MAYNE ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIN LINK FENCE MANUFACTURERS INSTITUTE

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Art Mayne is the Specifications Writer for Merchants Metals, a leading manufacturer and distributor of state-of-the-art security products. Mr. Mayne has been writing specifications for fencing, access-control entry systems, and other high-security products for over 25 years. For the past two years, he has designed comprehensive security systems for Merchants Metals.

Last year, Art Mayne wrote the specifications and developed engineering drawings for the State Department to defend US embassies against a terrorist attack, as well as defend nuclear power plants, oil refineries, ports and military bases. Merchants Metals' cable system design met the State Department's K-8 rating, meaning it stopped a 15,000 pound truck at 40 miles per hour with zero penetration. In the 1980's and 1990's, Mayne taught perimeter security to professionals from around the world at the Physical Security School (PSS), which was started by the Navy in Norfolk, Virginia. At the PSS, he instructed officials from the State Department, Pentagon, FBI, CIA and other federal agencies. He also developed an educational seminar for the American Institute of Architects Continuing Education System (AIA/CES) called "Fencing and Security Products – Forms and Functions." .

Mr. Mayne is a member of the Construction Specification Institute (CSI), and has served as President of the CSI's Baltimore Chapter.

Prior to his career in security fencing, Mr. Mayne served in the U.S. Navy from 1961-1966, where he was stationed at the White House and Camp David. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Towson State University. He earned a Construction Document Technologist (CDT) certification from the Construction Specification Institute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to speak to the Subcommittee on the critical issue of a border fence. My name is Art Mayne. I am here today representing the Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute (CLFMI) and my company, Merchants Metals, but I want to make it clear that the views I am expressing are my own, based on years of experience with comprehensive security technology.

The Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute is a 46-year old trade association whose members represent approximately 85% of the chain link fence products manufactured in the U.S. I have agreed to speak on behalf of the CLFMI today because I believe an optimal border fence should include anti-intrusion/anti-climb chain-link fencing such as I have designed specifically for this purpose.

I have been involved as a specifications expert in the security field for over 25 years. I write specifications for a wide variety of fencing and other security products. In addition to my involvement with CLFMI, I have been active in the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) and other professional groups. My experience with enhanced security systems goes back to the 1980's and 90's when I spent time teaching perimeter security at the Physical Security School, started by the Navy in Norfolk, Virginia. At the Physical Security School, I instructed security professionals from the Pentagon, FBI and Central Intelligence Agency.

As a result of my long involvement with designing security fencing and other security systems, I have an in-depth knowledge not only of chain-link but also all other security fencing products, including expanded metal, ornamental and welded wire mesh.

Mr. Chairman, in November of 2001, CLFMI's members, at their annual meeting, voted to redirect the institute's resources to assisting the enhancement of security efforts in both the private and public sectors. As part of that effort, CLFMI has worked with various entities to develop comprehensive systems that will meet these increased security needs. CLFMI has worked closely with the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), Army Corps of Engineers, Sandia Labs, FAA, Pentagon and Consumer Product Safety Commission in an effort to promote safety and the efficient use of chain-link fence products.

An excellent example of this is the anti-intrusion/anti-climb fencing that is described in the CLFMI's White Paper on security fencing, which I ask to be submitted for the record. (pause) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By using the technology and innovative weaving processes, this chain-link fence system is the most versatile, cost-effective tool to reduce the flow of drugs and illegal intrusions into the U.S. across its Mexican and Canadian borders.

The chain-link system's strengths are reflected in the four objectives the DHS identifies as critical: detect, deter, delay and deny. The fence is constructed with a tightly woven metallic coated steel wire mesh (as Congressman Hunter exhibited earlier), and when combined with an angled or curved 6-foot overhang, presents a deterrent that is extremely difficult to climb and even harder to cut through. The fence framework is designed to

withstand the forces of a 90 MPH windload applied against the wind-resistant small mesh.

For the border fence, I would recommend a double-row of fencing, one with the angled top and one vertically to further deter the intruder. Burying expanded metal, welded wire mesh or ornamental panels between the framework post's concrete footings can easily deter tunneling.

Perhaps the most important advantage this type of fence offers is its see-through nature, which protects our personnel in border areas. Even with smaller mesh, border patrol professionals can obtain visual contact before and during any intrusions. With a solid fence, it is impossible to know what is happening on the other side. Knowing what or who is on the other side helps protect the law enforcement officer while exposing the intruders.

To my knowledge, anti-intrusion/anti-climb chain-link is the most economical and cost-effective of all the building materials that can do this job. In response to a Congressional request, the CLFMI provided a cost estimate for materials and labor (actual costs will vary depending on locale, specifications, and competitive circumstances). We realize that this Committee is determined to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and my design reflects your prudence.

Chain-link is versatile, and can be adapted to virtually any terrain without costly and time-consuming landscaping and grading. This fencing is durable and inexpensive to maintain.

In addition, chain-link is strong enough to support additional surveillance equipment, and when combined with certain cabling devices, it is an effective vehicle restraint barrier to meet the State Department's K4, K8 or K12 crash Ratings. Moreover, chain-link fencing can conduct an electric current which will alert the Border Patrol that a breach may be in progress in specific sections.

This newer, smaller gauge chain link has proven its ability to enhance security in numerous applications. Many correctional facilities have upgraded their deterrence system by installing anti-climb chain-link fencing. This technology is also applicable to nuclear power plants, oil refineries, embassies, military bases and sea ports.

Mr. Chairman, a full description of the value of this anti-intrusion, anti-climb fence system is included in our White Paper. The Chain Link Fence Manufacturers Institute is prepared to assist the Government by providing not only the materials but also the technical expertise and consulting services necessary to design, build, and install a fencing system that will protect our borders.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.